

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 06073 310854Z

13

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 IGA-01 AID-10 EB-03 L-02

DRC-01 EUR-10 MC-02 SP-01 PRS-01 /071 W

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P R 310732Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9239

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 6073

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, ET, US

SUBJECT: FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: ADDIS 6028

1. IN MAY 30 BILATERAL MEETING ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE IEG TEAM HEADED BY CHIEF OF STAFF WOLDE SELASSIE BEREKAT AND AMBASSADOR KIFLE CONTINUED ITS EFFORTS (PARA 9 REFTTEL) TO AVOID DISCUSSION OF WHAT ITEMS SHOULD BE IN AN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CONSTRAINED BY THE CURRENT USG OFFER. INSTEAD, IT TABLED AND URGED DISCUSSION OF AN EQUIPMENT PACKAGE WHICH IT THOUGHT WOULD MEET BARE MINIMUM DEFENSE NEEDS OF IEG. EXCLUDING ITEMS IN GRANT PROGRAMS FOR FY-74 AND FY-75, IT ADDED UP TO APPROXIMATELY \$75 MILLION. SINCE PRESENT USG PLANS FOR FY-74 AND FY-75 TOTAL \$43.3 MILLION IN CREDIT AND CASH SALES (\$25 MILLION FOR CASH AND \$18.3 FOR CREDIT), THIS MEANT THAT IEG WAS IN EFFECT CALLING FOR AN INCREMENT OF ABOUT \$31.7 MILLION.

2. FROM DISCUSSIONS ON MAY 27 AND AT START OF MAY 30 MEETING IT APPEARED TO ME THAT ETHIOPIAN TEAM WAS EXTREMELY  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ADDIS 06073 310854Z

ANXIOUS DISCUSS THE \$75 MILLION PACKAGE IN SOME MANNER AND

WOULD FEEL THAT CHMAAG AND I WERE BEING UNNECESSARILY OBSTRUCTIVE IF WE FLATLY REFUSED DO SO. I ACCORDINGLY TOLD IEG TEAM THAT:

(A) WE HAD ALREADY REPORTED TO WASHINGTON PRIMIN'S REQUEST FOR AN INCREMENT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE;

(B) WE COULD NOT NOTIFY WASHINGTON OF THE SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT PACKAGE JUST PRESENTED TO US AS THE IEG'S DETAILED BACKUP FOR PRIMIN'S REQUEST; AND

(C) MAAG WAS WILLING TO EXAMINE IEG'S MAY 30 PROPOSAL AND INDICATE WHETHER IT THOUGHT THIS WAS BEST POSSIBLE WEAPONS MIX PROVIDING THAT IEG WERE ACTUALLY SPENDING THIS MUCH MONEY. I EMPHASIZED STRONGLY THAT, IN MAKING SUCH COMMENTS ON IEG'S PROPOSED PACKAGE, MAAG WOULD IN NO WAY BE IMPLYING THAT RESOURCES OF SUCH MAGNITUDE WERE AVAILABLE OR THAT A PACKAGE OF THIS SIZE IS "REQUIRED" BY IEG. ETHIOPIAN SIDE QUICKLY ACCEPTED THIS PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL AND MAAG COMMENTS ON IEG'S PROPOSED PACKAGE WILL ACCORDINGLY BE SUBMITTED AT BILATERAL MEETING AFTER-NOON MAY 31.

3. IEG TEAM INDICATED WITH RELUCTANCE THAT IT WAS WILLING MAKE DEFINITE DECISION ON CONTENT FY-74 CREDIT PROGRAM IN ADVANCE OF OTHER DECISIONS ON WEAPONS MIX. WE WILL THEREFORE ENDEAVOR OBTAIN FINAL AGREEMENT ON FY-74 CREDIT PROGRAM AT MAY 31 MEETING.

4. AMBASSADOR KIFLE SAID DURING MEETING THAT IEG HAD ALREADY DECIDED IT WAS PREPARED USE CASH TO ACQUIRE "MOST" OF THE INCREMENT IT SEEKS.

5. AMBASSADYR KIFLE ALSO INDICATED THAT IEG WOULD WISH LOCUS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE DISCUSSIONS SHIFTED TO WASHINGTON MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK. WE INDICATED THIS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

6. COMMENT: WITH PROBABLE EXCEPTION OF FY-74 CREDIT PROGRAM, WE BELIEVE IEG WILL NOT BE WILLING MAKE DECISIONS REGARDING WEAPONS SELECTION UNTIL WASHINGTON HAS RESPONDED TO PRIMIN'S REQUEST OF MAY 25 AND CLEARLY INDICATED WHAT FINAL USG DECISION IS REGARDING SIZE OF TOTAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE FOR FY-74 AND FY-75. THIS IS AN ADDITIONAL REASON FOR EXPEDITING  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ADDIS 06073 310854Z

SUCH REPLY.

7. KIFLE'S REMARKS ON AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL CASH EMPHASIZE NEED TO ADDRESS CASH ISSUE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH IN PRAS 6 AND 7 OF REFTTEL. WE NOW WISH RAISE ADDITIONAL POINT REGARDING CASH SALES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT UNDER CURRENT REGULATIONS ANY MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHICH IEG DECIDED PURCHASE FROM USG FOR CASH WOULD HAVE TO BE PAID FOR WHEN IEG

ACCEPTED THE DD-1513 LETTER OF OFFER. CONSIDERING LENGTHY  
LEAD TIMES INVOLVED IN DELIVERING ALMOST ALL EQUIPMENT IN  
WHICH IEG CURRENTLY MOST INTERESTED, THIS REQUIREMENT, WHICH  
WOULD TOTALLY IMMOBILIZE SUBSTANTIAL IEG FUNDS FOR NEXT  
COUPLE OF YEARS, APPEARS VERY ONEROUS. EMBASSY REQUESTS  
THAT DEPARTMENT AND DOD CONSIDER WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE  
TO LIGHTEN THIS REQUIREMENT FOR IEG AT PRESENT TIME.  
WYMAN

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## Message Attributes

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